

Agenda Item: 7

Meeting Date: September 13, 2006

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2006 CALFED PROGRAM PLANS

Description: The Chairs of the previously-constituted Subcommittees of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee will present their assessment of the content of the Program Plans within their subject-matter jurisdiction and request the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee concur with their findings and transmit those recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. The Draft Program Plans have been electronically provided to BDPAC members.

Recommended Action: The Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee consider and act on the recommendations of the BDPAC Subcommittee Chairs. This is an action item.

Background

The California Bay-Delta Authority Act of 2003 requires the California Bay-Delta Authority to annually review and approve Program Plans. The program planning process provides a forum to describe what has been accomplished, strategically plan for future implementation actions, identify problems and propose steps for resolving issues, identify available funding and additional funding needs, and ensure cross-Program integration and balance.

The CALFED implementing agencies have shared their Program Plans with other agencies and their respective BDPAC subcommittees. They are seeking BDPAC's transmittal of recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on each Program Plan. BDPAC subcommittee chairs will report on their respective Program Plans (Attachment 1).

Attachment

Attachment 1 – List of tentative BDPAC Subcommittee presenters

Attachment 2 – Memo from Chair of Working Landscapes Subcommittee dated September 1, 2006

Contact

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California Bay-Delta Authority

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BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 13, 2006

Tentative CALFED Program Plan Presenters

Program Plan	Presenter(s)
Storage	Steve Hall/Jerry Meral
EWA	Steve Hall/Jerry Meral
Conveyance	Steve Hall/Jerry Meral
Water Use Efficiency	Frances Spivey Weber/ David Guy
Levees	Marci Coglianese/ Tom Zuckerman
Ecosystem Restoration Program	Gary Bobker
Watershed	Martha Davis/Robert Meacher
Water Quality	Greg Gartrell

To: Gary Hunt, Chair
Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee

From: Denny Bungarz, Co-Chair
Vance Russell, Vice-Chair
Working Landscapes Subcommittee

Date: September 1, 2006

RE: CALFED Program Plan Comments

The Working Landscapes Subcommittee has reviewed the draft CALFED program plans. The Subcommittee does not offer specific comments on individual program plans, but does submit the following overarching recommendations with respect to program plans and working lands.

The Subcommittee's primary interest in the program plans is how they address working, primarily agricultural resource issues (i.e., land and water). Specifically, the Subcommittee wants to see that opportunities for CALFED to collaborate with landowners of agricultural lands on achieving CALFED goals have been explored and incorporated into program implementation plans. In addition, when program implementation actions have the potential to affect the use of working land resources, we recommend that CALFED program managers collaborate with affected landowners and agencies early in project planning and design stages. The objective of this collaboration should be to explore project alternatives and designs that lead to positive outcomes with respect to CALFED goals and sustainable working landscapes.

In the past, the Working Landscapes Subcommittee has served as a forum for program managers to seek early input from working lands stakeholders on project implementation and environmental analysis. Under the CALFED Ten-Year Action Plan, the Subcommittee has been designated as a "coordinated action. This coincides with the Secretary for Resources and Secretary of Food and Agriculture's consideration of creating a statewide Working Lands Stewardship Advisory Council. If created, I expect that this statewide working lands entity will continue to serve CALFED Program implementation.

Following is recommended language that the Subcommittee suggests be provided to program managers as they develop final program plans. This language is similar to that being proposed for use by program managers of "Coordinated CALFED Actions." The Working Landscapes Subcommittee recommends that the same language be applied to CALFED's direct action program plans.

WORKING LANDSCAPES

The Working Landscapes Subcommittee was created by the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee in order to provide a forum for stakeholders concerned with both the impacts and opportunities of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program with regard to agricultural land.

The WLS (or a future statewide Working Lands Stewardship Advisory Committee, or a Working Landscapes workgroup within CALFED) also provides an opportunity for CALFED agencies implementing coordinated as well as direct actions to conduct outreach and early consultation with stakeholders from the agricultural, conservation practitioner and environmental communities, along with selected agency representatives. WLS is, thus, a forum to explore opportunities to achieve multiple benefits while working towards CALFED program goals; promote collaboration between agencies and private landowners; and, identify, and avoid or lessen potential impacts of the program or projects on working lands. As appropriate, CALFED implementing agencies are encouraged to use this, or any subsequent working lands outreach forum.

The Working Landscapes Subcommittee will be meeting next on October 5. At that meeting, the Subcommittee will consider adopting a Subcommittee transition report to BDPAC. This report, among other things, will include recommendations for continuing a working landscapes forum for the CALFED program, whether the forum transitions to a statewide or less formal venue within CALFED.

Thank you for considering these Subcommittee's comments.